

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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## Finland Is Seeking Peace With Russia

**Strong Pressure Is Being Put on Helsinki Government to Withdraw from Conflict**

### SOVIET TERMS ARE STUDIED

**In Addition to Military Guarantees, Moscow Likely to Insist upon Friendly Government**

Although there has been no official confirmation of the reports, there appears little doubt that some sort of negotiations are taking place between the Russians and the Finns to bring Finland out of the war. There were persistent reports last week that Kusti Paasikivi, former Finnish premier, was in Stockholm discussing terms of surrender with the Russian ambassador to Sweden, Madame Alexandra Kollantai. It is regarded as significant that it was Paasikivi who conducted the negotiations with Russia which brought the war of 1939-1940 to an end.

Russian military successes of recent weeks have made Finland's position extremely precarious. As the Red armies in the north have pushed the Germans from the Leningrad area, Finland has become isolated from her German ally. Perhaps to emphasize this precarious position, Russian bombers have on several occasions flown over the Finnish capital, Helsinki, and dropped tons of bombs. In Finland itself, there has been growing sentiment for peace with Russia and this sentiment has increased as a result of the pressure brought to bear upon the government by the United States. Only a short time ago, Secretary Hull urged the Finns to get out of the war as soon as possible.

### Extreme Suffering

The Finns have suffered greatly as a result of the war. They had not recovered from their conflict with Russia during the winter of 1939-1940 when they were again involved in a struggle with their Soviet neighbor. They entered the war in June, 1941, at the time of Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union. They have lost between 300,000 and 400,000 men in dead, wounded, and prisoners. This is a serious matter for a country which has a population of only 3,800,000. There is little fuel to heat the houses and food is scarce. Many Finns are on the verge of starvation.

However great may be the Finns' desire to withdraw from the war, there are many obstacles in the way of coming to terms with the Russians. Perhaps the greatest difficulty, from the Finns' standpoint, is the presence of seven German divisions in Finland, estimated at between 50,000 and 100,000 men. If the Germans would withdraw these divisions, Finland would be spared the horrors of becoming a battlefield, as Italy has become. But should the Germans refuse to withdraw and seek rather to force the Finns to remain in the war, an ex-

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What will be their future?

LAMBERT PHOTO

## An Evil Companion

By Walter E. Myer

Each of us has an evil companion who follows us about, stands at our elbow, prompts us to unworthy thoughts and acts, gets in the way of our advancement, interferes with us at work and play, and keeps us from being as happy as we should be. We all know him intimately and to our sorrow. We are ashamed of our association with him, and pretend that he has no influence over us. When we do his bidding we do it secretly and try to cover it up. We say we have acted from other motives. That suits him very well, for he doesn't care to be given credit for what he does. He goes quietly about his hateful business, stirring up troubles between us and our friends and in other ways breaking up our plans, and we find it very hard to shake off his influence. The name of this ever-present companion is Jealousy.

Jealousy is slinking and unattractive, and probably most of us would not make his acquaintance if it were not for his cousin, Ambition, a fine, upstanding fellow, whom we naturally like. The two cousins are frequently together, unfortunately, and it is through Ambition that we come to know Jealousy. Ambition usually gives us good advice. He tells us to do our best at all times, to try to do really big things, to make something of our lives and our opportunities. He encourages us when we falter, tells us we have it in us to do something worth while, argues that we should turn aside from all that is petty and march on to distant goals.

Then Jealousy steps in and suggests that we be on guard against some friend or neighbor. He says someone is getting ahead of us, is winning some prize or some recognition that we should have. He tries to make us dissatisfied. He even prompts us to try to pull our friend down or to say something against him. He gets us so confused that we cannot keep our eyes on the goal that Ambition has marked out for us. He says we are fools to go ahead being happy over the progress we are making if someone else is going a little faster than we are. He keeps prodding us until we lose the sense of enjoyment in our progress. We begin to give too much attention to the rewards others are receiving. We grow bitter. We become unfriendly or unfair toward our friends. Then we make false steps in our own efforts. We cease to advance as we should.

Here and there we find a person who is shrewd enough or wise enough to see through Jealousy's schemings. That person continues to associate with Ambition and to follow his counsel. He moves on, doing his best, rejoicing in his own progress. But he turns a cold shoulder upon Jealousy and refuses to worry about the successes of his friends.

## Program Advocated For U. S. Students

**Youth Urged to Prepare Now to Deal with Complex Problems of Postwar Era**

### TO AVOID THIRD WORLD WAR

**Study of Issues of Peace, Coupled with Program of Action, Is Recommended Procedure**

Last week we discussed the problem of winning the peace, and pictured the danger of our situation if international issues are not handled wisely after the war. We warned against overoptimism and considered the difficulties which stand in the way of achieving a lasting peace. The problems which will confront us as we undertake to maintain stability and reasonable prosperity in our country will be equally serious.

These obstacles to peace and security can be overcome if the people of the democratic nations are sufficiently determined to overcome them. But it is not enough that the people merely be well-intentioned and that they hope for wise solutions of the tangled problems of postwar policy. They must be well informed about the problems which must be dealt with, and they must be active in the support of sound reconstruction measures.

### How to Prepare

But how are citizens, especially young citizens now in the schools to prepare themselves to become efficient and influential so that they can really help at the job of winning the peace and of getting our country back safely to peacetime conditions? That is the question which we shall consider in this article. To readers who would like to exert influence in favor of wise national and international policies but who are somewhat uncertain about the first steps to take in preparing for that work, we make the following suggestions:

The first step is to allot as much time as you can each day to reading in the field of national and international affairs. At first you will not know exactly what to look for. You will not know what the big issues are. The best you can do is to read as widely as you can from a variety of sources. Read the editorials in your home newspapers, and if you live in a small town, read the editorials of one of the large daily newspapers in your state or region. Follow closely a number of columnists who write signed editorials.

But do not stop with newspaper editorials. Most daily papers are conservative in policy and do not give you the liberal or progressive point of view. You will get more variety by reading a liberal magazine such as *The New Republic* or *The Nation* in addition to your newspaper. Weekly magazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek* will give you a digest of the week's news without much editorial opinion. It is important also that you read ar-

(Concluded on page 7)





Governor John W. Bricker and wife

### Compromise Candidate?

## John W. Bricker of Ohio

WHILE Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York and Wendell L. Willkie are at present the leading contenders, in public-opinion polls, for the Republican presidential nomination, many people feel that when the convention meets in June a compromise candidate will be nominated in order to break the deadlock. Among the most frequently mentioned possibilities to play this role is Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio.

Republican leaders who have their eyes on Governor Bricker feel that he might well be able to bring them back into office after a dozen years out of power. He comes from a state which has sent seven Presidents to the White House since the Civil War—a state so situated geographically as to appeal to voters of different sections. Governor Bricker has demonstrated his vote-getting ability over a long period of years. During a political career extending over the last 20 years, he has been out of office only three years. He has been elected governor for three terms. During the period of his governorship, he has avoided conflicts which might make political enemies and split the party.

Until his recent trip to Washington, where he was principal speaker at a Lincoln Day banquet and where he held an important press conference, Governor Bricker's views on the great national and international issues of the day were largely unknown. He had confined his activities to administering the affairs of Ohio. He has admittedly given the state an efficient administration, honest and economical. Low taxes, a balanced budget, and a small state bureaucracy have characterized his three terms in office.

From Governor Bricker's statements in Washington, one gets the first definite idea of his stand on some of the issues of the day. He may be classed as a moderate or middle-of-the-roader on both domestic and foreign issues. He is unalterably opposed to the New Deal philosophy, is for freedom of business enterprise, for governmental economy, and for reduced and stable taxes after the war. He is opposed to the growing power of the federal government and has called for the restoration of states' rights. He has taken a strong stand against strikes in time of war.

In the international field, Governor Bricker's position has been defined as favoring "cooperation without commitments." In Washington this month, he stated that he favored American participation in "a cooperative organiza-

tion among sovereign nations after this war," but declared that "we want no supergovernment, no central world authority over us."

Critics of Governor Bricker are quick to point to what they consider his weaknesses as a presidential candidate. They say that his domestic program, so far as it has been announced, consists largely of opposing the New Deal, without offering anything concrete in return. They say it is all very fine to speak of "free enterprise," and "states' rights," and economy, but that the times call for a definite program to deal with the truly staggering problems which will arise during the period of demobilization and reconstruction. Many Republicans have expressed the opinion that Governor Bricker might try to ride into office on the wave of reaction that always follows a period of war; that he might advocate a "back to normalcy" program as Warren G. Harding did in 1920 and that such a program would be even more disastrous to the country now than it was after the First World War.

Those Republicans who are in favor of a strong international organization after the war to preserve the peace also have certain doubts about Governor Bricker's stand on foreign policy. They say that while he has come out for a "cooperative organization," he has also emphasized that it must be "among sovereign nations" and that there must be "no central world authority." Critics say that Mr. Bricker is sufficiently vague on this issue as to win support from both those who favor international cooperation and those who believe America should not become involved in commitments with other nations to safeguard the peace. In this way, it is said, he hopes to win favor with both wings of the party.

Governor Bricker will be supported by those members of the Republican party who feel that the times call for a moderate program; that the federal government, under the Roosevelt administration, has gone too far in the direction of controlling the nation's economic life, and that future progress lies in the direction of removing many of the present restrictions. He will be opposed by those members of the party who feel that our economic life has become so complex that it can function smoothly only if a considerable degree of direction by the federal government is maintained. Bricker's main support, in other words, comes from the conservative wing of the party, his opposition from the liberal wing.

## Preferential Primaries

THE few months just before the major political parties hold their national conventions are always busy ones for party leaders and would-be candidates. Not only must they judge the temper of the people during this period in order to work out popular platforms, but party chieftains must also find out how much support they can get for favored nominees at convention time.

In this process, the preferential primary election is highly significant. Some time in March, April, or May of a national election year, most states hold these preliminary contests to gauge the preferences of party members on a presidential nominee.

Before the First World War, the preferential primary was seldom used. Delegates to the national conventions of each party were chosen at state conventions, or in caucuses of party leaders. They were responsible to dominant party leaders and usually nominated candidates according to instructions from them. Many people felt that this method gave too little expression to the rank-and-file party member's feeling about who his candidate should be.

To make the nominating process more democratic, the preferential primary system was introduced in most states during Woodrow Wilson's first administration. Although laws governing the preferential primary in the various states differ widely, their general pattern is about the same.

In most states, the process starts with petitions. Party members who favor a particular presidential nominee collect the signatures of a fixed number of other members who wish to endorse a candidate. Then his name is placed on the preferential primary ballot unless he indicates that he does not choose to have it entered. All registered party members are eligible to vote for their choice among the listed candidates. In a few states, provision is made for indicating both first and second choice of candidates for the presidency.

In some states the results of this preferential primary election commit the party delegates to vote for the indicated nominee in the first ballot at the national convention. In others, the results of the preferential primary merely serve as a weather vane to show party leaders the trend of opinion among state members. In other states, delegates to the conventions are elected separately by districts after having stated which candidate they will support.

Party members who aspire to the presidential nomination decide whether or not they will enter preferential primaries in the different states

according to how much influence the results have on the delegates. For instance, Wendell Willkie has announced that he will run in the Oregon primary election, which will be held on May 19. Oregon law makes the primary results binding on party delegates. If Willkie wins there, he will be assured of the state's 15 votes in the national convention.

On the other hand, Willkie has announced that he will not enter the Illinois primary. Previously, he had planned to enter if Colonel Robert McCormick, isolationist publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, did. What he had hoped to do was to debate the issues of our foreign policy with McCormick and make the election an open contest between isolationist and internationalist views. But now McCormick has withdrawn his name from the primary lists. Willkie feels that since Illinois law does not provide that the outcome of the preferential primary pledges party delegates to vote for the winner in the national convention, there is no point in his entering.



The time—the place—and—the go!!

Willkie is not the only Republican aspirant who has been laying the groundwork for participation in preferential primary elections in the next few months. In several states, notably Oregon and Wisconsin, petitions are being circulated for New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey. In others, party workers are gathering lists of names for General Douglas MacArthur and Ohio's Governor John W. Bricker.

Although divisions within the Democratic party are almost equally sharp, there has been less preparation for the preferential primaries among aspiring candidates. The main reason for this is that Democratic opinion has not yet settled on possible candidates other than President Roosevelt.

### The American Observer

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PAROIS IN SAN FRANCISCO CALL-BULLETIN  
Handing out the same old line





ONE OF THE FIVE fatal mistakes of the Axis was not to have sufficient landing barges for the invasion of England after the fall of France. Here are American landing barges in the waters of Bougainville Island.

## Points of View

### What Authors and Editors Are Saying

(The ideas expressed in these columns should not be taken to represent the views of the editors of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

#### Axis Mistakes

After Germany had conquered the Low Countries and France, it seemed that the war had been won. After that, however, the Axis powers made these five fatal blunders, says Albert Carr, in the February *Harpers*:

1. The Germans did not produce landing barges in sufficient quantity so that they could invade England after conquering France.

2. When the Germans launched their air blitz against England, they could have destroyed the relatively few airplane factories then in existence and thereby rendered the English helpless. Instead they attacked cities, hoping to terrorize and break morale.

3. Germany permitted Italy to attack Greece and then had to come to her rescue. This operation threw Germany off schedule, wasting manpower and military equipment which could have been used instead to enable Rommel to achieve victory in Egypt and perhaps the Middle East.

4. The German spy system broke down in Russia, so that the Nazis did not know of the extent of Russian preparedness for war.

5. The Japanese miscalculated when they thought that if they destroyed the American battleships at Pearl Harbor they would paralyze our entire offensive war effort. They underestimated the power of our cruisers, destroyers, carriers, and other vessels.

#### American Foreign Policy

The *New Republic*, February 21, 1944, in an editorial entitled "Have We a Foreign Policy?" makes this criticism of our Italian policy:

Our government has handed over northern Italy to King Victor Emmanuel and Badoglio—to "the monarch under whom Italy embraced fascism," to "the generals who supported it and switched only when the going became tough." The editorial continues: "We leave much of the corrupt petty officialdom which fattened on fascism. We leave the whole landholding system which kept the peasant population in poverty and semi-serfdom. We leave an exploiting capitalism which

worked hand in hand with the fascists."

The editors of *The New Republic* think that millions of people throughout Europe are hoping for better conditions than those which prevailed before the war, and that popular movements for democratic revolution are in the making throughout the continent, but that "the men of the State Department still shrink from the prospect of recognizing and accepting the forces of democratic revolution in Europe." Instead, they are doing business with the old governments which in many cases are associated in the minds of the plain people with reaction and oppression. The editorial examines some of the possible consequences of this policy:

Some of the State Department officials have reportedly said that the future will be a struggle between us and the Russians for the soul of Europe. Let us take them at their own word. Let us assume this is true. The absence of a militantly democratic American foreign policy toward Europe could only mean that the Russians will win the chief allegiance of the western European countries. For it would mean that they alone know what

## SMILES

It's possible the German people are beginning to realize that they have over-Reiched themselves.

—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Two old friends who had not seen each other for a long time met on the street. One exclaimed very excitedly:

"Oh, Mable, I've had a lot happen to me since I saw you last. I had all my teeth out and an electric stove and a refrigerator put in."—BOYS' LIFE

Landlord: "I understand you are kicking about the mosquitoes in your room."

Roomer: "Oh, no, I didn't kick your mosquitoes about—I merely socked a few of them on the nose with my fist."

—PATHFINDER

"Your mother," said the sergeant to the awkward recruit, "is rather upset because you left home to become a soldier."

"Yes, she is."

"Well, just write and tell her not to fret," continued the sergeant. "Even if the war lasts 50 years, you'll never be a soldier."—TID-BITS

A storekeeper was annoyed because he had to wait several months for a big order, so he wired the manufacturer: "Cancel my order immediately."

Back came the reply: "Regret we cannot cancel immediately. You must take your turn."—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

they want, they alone understand the energies and aspirations of the European peoples, they alone have the dynamic necessary to organize a new Europe.

The fall of Hitlerism will mean that a vacuum will be left in the European structure, in the European consciousness. American energies can help fill that vacuum, without any necessary conflict with Russian energies. But under the present State Department policy, or lack of policy, they can do nothing.

#### Rebuilding Russia

How long will it take Russia to rebuild? Foreign observers who have seen the devastated areas estimate that it will take from 15 to 30 years, but Soviet economists and scientists confidently predict that the job of industrial recovery will be completed in five years after the end of the war.

It is difficult for those who have never seen war-torn areas to appreciate the enormity of the task of rebuilding. Although Hitler has occupied and destroyed only about a tenth of the area of Russia, it was by far the richest tenth.

Edgar Snow, writing in the *Saturday Evening Post*, visualizes the task in terms of American geography: "Take a dozen large towns which have been destroyed by the Nazis: Sevastopol, Rzhnev, Kursk, Kharkov, Kiev, Odessa, Leningrad, Rostov, Novorossiisk, Stalingrad, Smolensk, and Dnepropetrovsk. In population they formerly about corresponded to the American cities of Trenton, Atlantic City, Nashville, Boston, Baltimore, San Francisco, Chicago, Milwaukee, Peoria, Washington, Des Moines, and Cincinnati, respectively. Conceive of the jobs involved in rebuilding all these American cities. Think of the thousands of factories, power plants and other public works, railways, administration buildings, schools, libraries, churches, laboratories, and homes that would have to be replaced."

Snow says that the secret of Russia's ability to rebuild rapidly undoubtedly lies in her amazing education system, which has reduced illiteracy from 60 per cent to five per cent since Lenin's day. At the end of the seventh grade examinations are given to select the best young people for thorough technical and professional training at state expense. This "brain draft" has for years been producing thousands of confident, eager, and highly competent technicians.

Judge: "You admit that you drove over this man with a loaded truck. What do you have to say in defense?"

Defendant: "I didn't know it was loaded."—LAMPION

"In his last letter from Italy, Jones says he learned to speak fluent Italian in a month."

"Can't understand it."

"Neither can the Italians."—SELECTED

Saxophonist: "Does my playing make you nervous?"

Neighbor: "It did when I first heard everybody discussing it, but now I don't care what happens to you."—SELECTED



GENTRY IN SATURDAY EVENING POST

## Week in Congress

DURING THE WEEK ending February 19, Congress took the following action on important national problems:

#### Monday, February 14

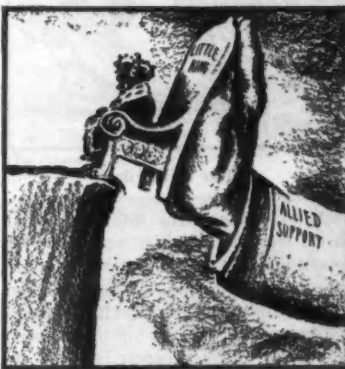
Senate not in session. House failed to accept amendments to the resolution to continue the Commodity Credit Corporation, which administers the subsidy program, and called for a conference to iron out the differences. Adjourned out of respect to Rep. Leonard Schuetz of Illinois, who died earlier in the day.

Senate Foreign Affairs Committee approved the resolution authorizing United States participation in UNRRA, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, but provided for a two-year limitation.

House Ways and Means Committee continued study of tax simplification. Banking and Currency Committee heard Secretary of Commerce Jones on the proposal to place disposal of surplus war property under the administration of the RFC.

#### Tuesday, February 15

Senate passed bill providing for greater freedom to Puerto Rico



named conferees on antisubsidy bill—Bankhead, Taft, McClellan, Thomas, and Clark of Idaho.

House passed bill providing for an additional assistant secretary of the interior. Two-hour debate on bill providing for the appropriation of funds to experiment with synthetic fuels.

Passed resolution authorizing investigation of program of developing guayule as domestic source of crude rubber.

#### Wednesday, February 16

Senate passed conference report on antisubsidy bill, providing for extension of life of Commodity Credit Corporation but banning further subsidies after June 30, 1944. Debated the UNRRA resolution. House passed the synthetic fuel bill and the War Department's Civil Functions appropriation.

#### Thursday, February 17

Senate passed resolution authorizing U. S. participation in UNRRA, after adding minor amendments to tighten congressional check on use of U. S. funds. Provides for appropriation of \$1,350,000,000 for program. House passed the antisubsidy bill, thus sending the measure to the White House where it awaited a presidential veto.

Senate Commerce Committee reported a resolution authorizing a nine-man committee to investigate U. S. petroleum situation.

#### Friday, February 18

Senate not in session. House received the President's veto of the antisubsidy bill and sustained it by a vote of 226 to 151. Heard Brown of Ohio call for a committee to investigate all news material being sent to the armed forces. Passed the bill making appropriations for the State, Justice, and Commerce Departments.



# The Story of the Week

## Japan's Pearl Harbor

The attack on Truk came as a surprise to the American public. It is probable that our Navy officials themselves would have been surprised a year ago if they could have known that a powerful American naval force could attack Truk in February, 1944. It is known now that our operations in the Pacific are several months ahead of schedule (see map, page 5).

All the while, Truk has been a goal at which our forces have aimed. During the 25 years that the Japanese have been in possession of the Caroline Islands they have worked tire-

est of them being about 10 miles in length and three miles in breadth. But on these islands there are powerful gun emplacements and numerous airfields. Two American Marine photo planes flew over Truk on February 4 and took pictures of the fortifications. The flyers reported that one of the islands was "a mass of landing fields and airplane revetments. Strips, taxi-ways, and ships covered the entire layout. There didn't seem to be room for anything else, even living quarters." One of the flyers reported that "it looked like the whole Japanese fleet was down there and I only saw part of one of many anchorages."

Whether the entire Japanese fleet or even the major part of it is now in Truk is questionable. Certainly the main units of the fleet were there a few months ago, but it is generally believed that a large part of it has withdrawn recently. The Japanese are disinclined to bring their main fleet out and give battle to the American forces, and it is thought probable that after the Americans took Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands the main units of the Japanese fleet withdrew to points near the homeland.

Since August, 1942, when the American forces attacked the Solomon Islands, our progress has at times seemed slow, and many critics have complained that our government was neglecting the Pacific forces and was giving its full attention to the European theater of war. Lately, however, it has become apparent that we have in the South Pacific the greatest battle fleet which has ever been assembled in the history of the world. Powerful air forces are operating in this region. It has taken a long time to bring the fighting equipment together, but it is now carrying on a rapidly moving offensive.

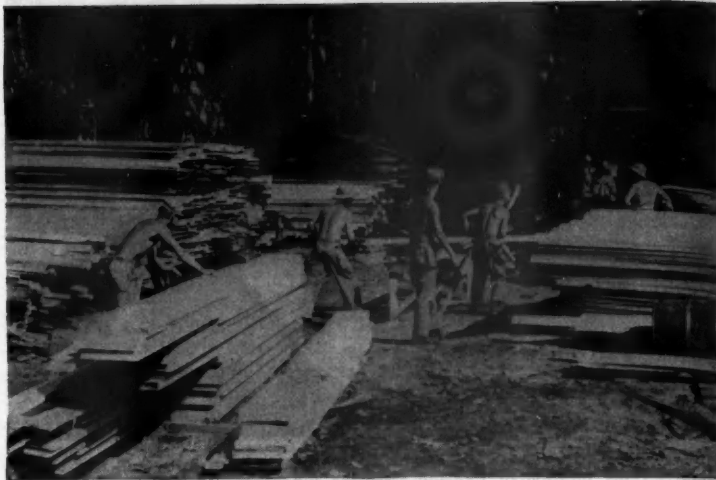
## Next Step in the Orient

As our forces continue their drive through Japan's island defense system, new questions are arising as to the future strategy of the Far Eastern war. Recently, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander of the Pacific Fleet answered some of them. He identified our next goal in a single word—China.

Admiral Nimitz holds that we cannot hope to defeat Japan from the air and sea alone. As things stand now, the Japanese are safe from steady air attack on their home islands because we have no land bases from which to send out our bombers. In addition, they are free to draw food and other supplies from their holdings on the Asiatic mainland. As Nimitz sees it, the next step must be to set up bases on the Chinese coast.

When Nimitz's forces make their landings in China, as he promises they will, they will be supported from two directions. In northern Burma, General Stilwell is fighting to bring his forces onto Chinese soil. Hearing of Nimitz's statement, Stilwell pledged his support, warning, however, that Chinese and American forces fighting in Burma needed more supplies to go on.

In China itself, General Claire Chennault's 14th Air



**SETTLING DOWN.** Having brought the entire Solomons area under our control, Army engineers have built a saw mill to provide lumber for storehouses, bridges, barracks, and other installations.

Force is also ready to support new Allied invaders of the Asiatic mainland. Chennault's flyers are doing great damage to Japan's communication system in northern and central China, and are effectively harrying Japanese shipping along the coast.

## More Trouble in Argentina

For a while it seemed as though Argentina might be ready at last to fall in with the anti-Axis cause. Having broken diplomatic relations with both Germany and Japan, the Ramirez government was rumored on the verge of an actual declaration of war against the Nazis.

But a new upset in the Argentine cabinet has forestalled this prospect. Fearing that Ramirez might abandon his policy of neutrality, a group of pro-Nazi army officers under the leadership of Colonel Juan D. Peron, Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare in the present cabinet, seized the Foreign Ministry and forced the resignation of its leaders.

The new coup places Ramirez and those who support him in a highly precarious position. It is felt, however, that the pro-Axis faction will hesitate to oust him completely because of fears that the United States and the other South American republics may take strong steps against them if they do.

## Blockade Extended

Hard-pressed for many vital war materials, Germany has been looking more and more to imports for her supplies. Many of these have been smuggled out of ports in northern Spain and transported to the Reich through France. Recently Britain took a new step to cut off this Axis lifeline by blockading the entire Bay of Biscay.

The area which has just been declared "dangerous to shipping" extends from the westernmost tip of England 360 miles out into the Atlantic; it runs 400 miles south and then due east to territorial waters near the border between France and Spain (see map). The British Admiralty believes that Germany will soon be completely barred from this source of supply.

At the same time, the American fleet is intensifying its efforts to blockade Germany from the Far East. Previously, the Nazis were receiving substantial shipments of war mate-

rials from Japanese-held ports. According to a statement by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, blockade runners from the Orient now find it increasingly difficult to break through and get their cargoes to Germany.

## Baruch Report

"There is no need for a postwar depression. Handled with competence, our adjustment, after the war is won, should be an adventure in prosperity."

This encouraging conclusion is from the far-reaching Baruch report on postwar adjustment which stirred the nation last week. Prepared at the request of the President by the famous 73-year-old financier, Bernard M. Baruch, the report calls for no letup in the war effort, but emphasizes that planning for peace must not be de-



**HONORABLY DISCHARGED SOLDIERS** all over the country are filling out applications for their mustering-out pay, recently provided by act of Congress.

layed, and that the nation must begin immediate work on a program of reconversion to be put into effect the day Germany is defeated.

On the human side Baruch calls for creation of a work director in the Office of War Mobilization to watch over the welfare and employment of returning service men and the demobilization of war workers. The plan recommends the use of public works projects only in case of depression emergency, and urges speedy termination of war contracts with immediate payment, government loans to industry, and quick conversion to peacetime work—especially by small industry—so that private business can keep up a high rate of employment after the war.

The report further emphasizes that war controls should be liquidated as soon as their usefulness is ended, but stresses the need for extension of certain war powers, such as price control. Other recommendations: those government agencies which "wound up the



Officer of the day

lessly to develop Truk into a powerful base. On the outside, not much is known of their work, for no foreigners have been permitted on these islands. The fortifications have been concealed by secrecy. It is thought, however, that Truk is the greatest island fortress in the entire Pacific, with the possible exception of Pearl Harbor. In some quarters it is regarded as the mightiest fortress in the world.

The Washington Post says of Truk that "it is the shield which protects the Land of the Rising Sun from a western attack, and, therefore, a bulwark which must be smashed or neutralized before the Allies can penetrate to Japan."

What we call Truk is a lagoon surrounded by reefs and containing eleven small islands and a number of smaller islets. This encloses a space which runs about 40 miles each way. Within this space there are islands and harbors. The harbors are so extensive that the entire Japanese navy could be accommodated. It is sometimes said that all the navies of the world could find space within the enclosure.

All the islands are small, the larg-



The dotted line indicates the huge area to which the British blockade has been extended



war economy" should stay on the job and help unwind it; the government should get out of business; administration of the war program and war industry should be tightened up; and the public debt and taxes should be lowered as soon as possible.

## Churches and The War

According to established rules of war, civilized armies are pledged to spare all religious, cultural, charitable, and medical buildings in their campaigns. The code provides only one exception—if the enemy is using such buildings for military purposes, they may be attacked.

Throughout the war, the Allies have scrupulously observed this rule. Only after the Nazis had made Rome a military center did they bomb that ancient religious capital. Actually, the war in Italy has been prolonged by our efforts to spare Rome. The Axis, however, has lost no opportunity to violate it and turn Allied reprisals into propaganda stories.

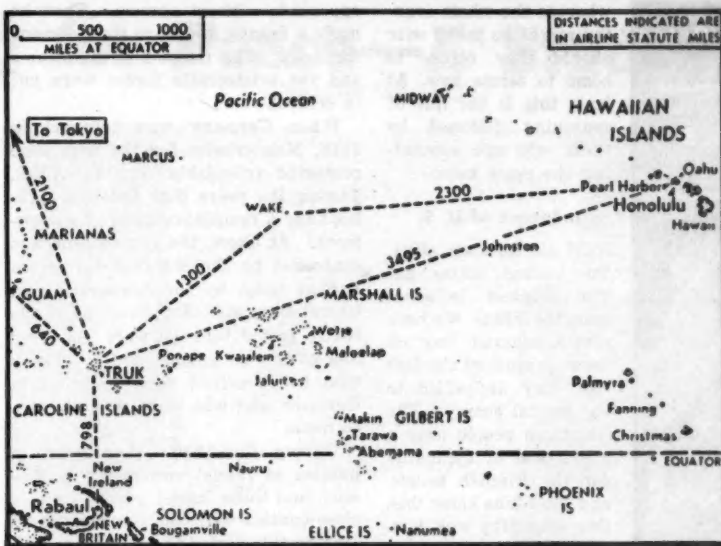
This was illustrated recently on the Cassino front. On a hill above the town stood the historic Benedictine Abbey of Mount Cassino. Counting on Allied reluctance to destroy its religious and cultural treasures, the Nazis used it freely as an observation post and artillery station. But finally, on orders from General Eisenhower, the monastery was demolished. As Eisenhower put it, "When we have to choose between destroying a famous building and sacrificing our own men, then our men's lives count infinitely more and the buildings must go."

## Turkey and the Allies

As we go to press, it looks as though Turkey, one of the few remaining nonbelligerent nations, will keep to her spectator's role a little longer. Talks between the Turkish government and a British military mission have ended with little hope that Turkey will soon come into the war on the United Nations side.

The apparent reason for the inconclusive end of these negotiations is that Turkish and British representatives were unable to agree on the amount of military aid the British should send in before Turkey would be equipped to fight the Axis. Actually, a deeper reason is that the Turks have little to gain and much to lose by stepping into the conflict at this time.

Although an alliance with Britain has committed the Turks to the Allied cause, Turkey does not expect to profit richly from a United Nations victory. The Turks have no ambitions



Moving toward the heart of Japan

to enlarge their territory. Furthermore, they are not strong enough to hope to dominate any Balkan federation which may be set up.

On the negative side, the Turks are restrained by Nazi strength in their corner of Europe. They note with alarm the slow progress of Allied armies in Italy. They recognize the Nazi power in Greece and Bulgaria. In addition, they are discomfited by the number of Nazi-held islands close to their own shores.

## Wallace Returns

A good part of the Democratic party's campaigning up to the present time has been done by Vice-President Henry A. Wallace, who recently returned from a nation-wide speaking tour. He believes that the President will run for a fourth term, and has been championing his reelection.

On the basis of what he discovered on his trip, Wallace is convinced that the President can win again in November. He admits that sections of the Mid-West have swung away from the Democratic party, but believes that even here the President's chances are good.

As for his own future, Wallace is apparently in doubt. He has described himself as "sitting in the lap of the gods," which is taken to mean that he does not yet know whether Roosevelt will again support him as a running mate. Some observers feel that Wallace, because of his "radicalism" would be a liability to the Democrats in the coming presidential race. Others hold that the President himself has grown more conservative and that a vice-presidential nominee

like Wallace is needed to offset this trend and keep his old liberal support.

## Permanent Selective Service?

Congress, the administration, and War and Navy Department officials are giving serious thought to the prospect of a permanent selective service system for the nation. Most people are agreed that the United States cannot afford to lapse into unpreparedness again after the war is over. In compulsory military training for all able-bodied American youth, many see a necessary guarantee against future Pearl Harbors.

Bills have now been introduced in both houses of Congress to subject every mentally and physically fit boy to a year of military service upon his graduation from high school, or in the three years following his 18th birthday. As plans stand, training would be similar to that which is now given to selective service inductees. Specialist schools would be maintained to develop special skills in those of outstanding aptitude. After the year of service, the trainees would be enrolled in the Army or Navy reserve for a period of four to eight years.

Besides assuring the nation of a ready supply of trained fighting men, many officials look upon a permanent selective service system as an economy measure. If a new war emergency arose, these reserves might be mobilized both more quickly and at less cost than in the past.

## Dissension in China

In several of the United Nations, the war against the Axis has been seriously impeded by internal dissension. One of the countries in which this is true is China, where no real peace has ever been made between Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's national government and the Communists.

Chiang and his party, the Kuomintang, hold that political questions must be postponed until the war is over. The Communists contend that a national assembly should be called now to draw up a constitution according to the will of the Chinese people.

In Shensi, and other provinces of Northern China, sizable Communist armies have been fighting the government's forces for some time. But Chungking officials, who have been working to settle the differences between the government and the Communists, are hopeful that a solution may be in sight. A Communist delegation is now on its way to the capital to discuss the possibility of re-incorporating Communist troops into the National Army.

## News Quiz

1. Why should a person read the editorial pages of more than one newspaper?
2. If you read *The New Republic* regularly you know that it represents the views of (a) the Republican party; (b) farmers' organizations; (c) isolationists; (d) liberals.
3. What is the function of the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*?
4. How may a student exert considerable influence in shaping public opinion?
5. If a discussion club or group is to be successful what general procedure must be followed?
6. What are the obstacles standing in the way of Finland's withdrawal from the war?
7. Who is General Mannerheim and what are his economic and political views?
8. What were the principal issues involved in the Russo-Finnish war of 1939-1940?
9. Give two reasons why Germany may fight desperately to keep Finland in the war?
10. What are some of the conditions Russia is likely to impose upon Finland in making a peace settlement?
11. Name the five fatal mistakes which the Axis has made.
12. True or false: Governor Bricker of Ohio supports the domestic program of the Roosevelt administration but opposes its foreign policy.
13. What is the importance of Truk?
14. What is the purpose of preferential primaries?
15. On what grounds has our policy toward Italy since the surrender of that country been criticized?



PACIFIC COMMANDERS. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz decorates Vice Admiral R. A. Spruance with the Distinguished Service Medal at Pearl Harbor.

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YOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO, have their own night club for the entertainment of 14-18-year-olds. Dancing, reasonably priced soft drinks, and entertainment furnished by members are features of the club—the young people's own answer to the problem of juvenile delinquency.





Finland

## Finnish War

(Concluded from page 1)

Extremely bloody conflict would ensue. The Germans might choose to reinforce their troops in Finland in order to forestall the defeat, military and psychological, which a Russo-Finnish peace would be.

As a matter of fact, Finland is not reassured by the Nazis' actions in Italy since that country's surrender to the Allies. Italians have been subjected to the most ruthless acts of barbarism to satisfy German vengeance for that surrender. The Finns might suffer a similar fate.

One of the main reasons why Germany may fight to the last to prevent Finland from withdrawing from the war is her dependence upon Finnish nickel, a vital war supply. This critical war material can be obtained from no other source. The Germans also depend heavily upon Finland for wood pulp and a number of other materials essential to her war effort.

### Matter of Prestige

There is also a psychological factor which may carry considerable weight with the Germans. The loss of one of their important satellites would be a severe blow to German prestige throughout Europe. Other satellites are wavering in their support of the New Order and their enthusiasm wanes in proportion to the advances of the Soviet armies toward Rumania and Bulgaria and Hungary.

But in considering the advisability of making peace now, the Finns must weigh considerations other than the probable reaction of the Germans. They must take into account their future relations with Russia. Those Finns who are working for an immediate surrender to Russia feel that Finland could obtain far better terms from the Soviets now than they could later. They feel that Russia would probably be satisfied with the frontiers which were established in the treaty of 1940 (see map).

Of course, the Russians would probably insist that, until Germany is defeated, Finnish airdromes, railroads, and other facilities should be made available to them, as we have insisted in Italy. But Finnish independence would be guaranteed after the war,

whereas the whole country might be taken over should they refuse to come to terms now. At least this is the line of reasoning followed by those who are supporting the peace move.

### Influence of U. S.

Of all Russia's allies, the United States has the greatest influence upon the Finns. We have never declared war on them, in spite of the fact that they are allied to our mortal enemy. The American people have a great deal of sympathy for the Finnish people, and the Finns know this. Our sympathy was demonstrated during their war with Russia in 1939-1940. There is a widespread feeling in the United States that the Finns are victims of circumstances, that they have been caught between their powerful

neighbors, the Russians and the Germans, and that their position is that of an innocent bystander who is being knocked about by the participants in a quarrel.

The idea that the Finns are innocent bystanders and victims of circumstances which they do not control is probably accurate enough if it is applied to the ordinary citizens of Finland—the plain people. It is not true, however, of the Finnish government. For most of the time during recent years the government has been controlled by men who have worked hand in glove with the Nazis, and the army and navy of Finland have been controlled by pro-Nazi forces.

Before the First World War, Finland had been a province of Russia for more than a century. In 1917, after the Russian armies had suffered defeats and the Russian government had been overthrown by revolution, the Finns declared their independence. Almost immediately thereafter a violent civil war broke out. On the one side was the old aristocratic element which had been the ruling class of Finland. On the other side were the workers, the social democrats, and many of the "plain people." The leader of the aristocratic group was General Mannerheim, who has figured prominently in recent Finnish history and who is now head of the Finnish army. For some time he fought his

opponents without success. Then he made a frantic appeal to the Germans for help. The German armies came and the aristocratic forces were put in control.

When Germany was defeated in 1918, Mannerheim for the first time protested friendship for the Allies. During the years that followed, Finland had a republican form of government. At times, the government was controlled by the Mannerheim forces and at times by the democratic and liberal elements. But throughout the entire period between wars the army and navy were commanded by officers who had received their training in Germany and who were strongly pro-German.

During the 1930's there were a number of fascist movements in Finland, and these fascist groups were in close contact with the German Nazis. During this period the Nazis made active preparations to use Finnish territory as a springboard for a possible attack upon Russia. Finnish and German army and naval officers exchanged visits. German engineers helped construct the Mannerheim Line—a line of fortifications erected along the Russo-Finnish border. The Germans built airfields and made other preparations.

Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, Russia sought to strengthen her defenses against a possible attack from Germany. She took over the Baltic states—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—and made demands upon Finland for bases from which to protect Soviet territory. The Finns refused to grant these concessions and the war resulted. The Russians took by force the bases which they demanded and incorporated into the Soviet Union this strategic territory.

### Joined Nazi Camp

When the German attack upon Russia came in the summer of 1941, the Finns lost no time in joining the Nazis. They hoped, through a German victory, to regain the land they had lost to Russia in 1940. Certain elements in Finland hoped to take even more territory from Russia than their country had lost. They became full-fledged allies of the Nazis, sent their armies marching against the Russians, participated in the siege of Leningrad, and permitted the use of their territory for naval and air attacks upon Allied shipping to Russia. Nor were their military activities confined to the northern front, in the Leningrad area. Finnish soldiers also fought alongside the Germans in the

interior of Russia, as far as the Stalingrad front.

Despite the fact that the Finns have been allied to our enemy and have been fighting our Russian ally, and despite the acts of hostility against us, such as the sinking of American vessels, we have refrained from declaring war against Finland. One of the advantages of this policy has been to leave us in a position to exert considerable pressure upon the Finns to withdraw from the war, as we are now doing.

### Russia's Demands

If the Finns and the Russians succeed in coming to terms during the present negotiations (there have been a number of previous attempts, all unsuccessful), Russia is likely to insist upon the fulfillment of a number of conditions, other than such strictly military matters as the demobilization of the Finnish army, occupation of



Helsinki, Finnish capital

the country until the end of the European war, use of Finnish airfields and railroads. It is quite likely that, as a condition of peace, the Russians will demand that the pro-Nazis be driven from power in Finland and that a government friendly to Russia be placed in authority.

There have always been two factions in Finland, the conservative, aristocratic group and groups representing labor and, in general, the poorer classes. These two factions are often spoken of as the "Whites" and the "Reds." The Whites are hostile to the Soviets and the Reds are friendly. The present government is controlled by Russia-haters and admirers of the Nazi leaders of Germans. Almost certainly the Russian government will see to it, by one means or another, that these hostile elements are eliminated from the government of Finland and that persons friendly to Russia are placed in power.

While some interference with Finnish politics seems probable, there is no evidence to indicate that the Russians intend to take over Finland as a province as she intends to do with the Baltic states. It seems likely that her territorial demands will be similar to those agreed to in the peace treaty of 1940. It seems to be Russia's policy to preserve, even to guarantee the frontiers of postwar Finland.

Whatever demands Russia may make upon Finland, it seems highly unlikely that the United States and Britain will intercede on behalf of the Finns. Many Finns have sought American and British influence to secure more moderate terms for them than they might otherwise obtain, but neither Britain nor America has seemed disposed to go further than to urge the Finns to sue for peace.



Eastern Finland abounds in lakes



# Preparing for Peace—A Student Program

(Concluded from page 1)

titles in such monthly magazines as *The Atlantic* and *Harper's*. In these magazines you will get thoughtful interpretations of the outstanding national and international issues.

At first you will find much that is new in the course of your reading and much that is confusing, but the more you read the clearer will be your ideas about the issues which are discussed. After a while, you will get a fair picture in your mind of certain concrete and definite issues. You will begin to see in clear outline what the problems are—the problems which must be solved if we are to have peace.

When you reach this point, you are ready for the second step. You are ready for selective reading. You will begin to think about concrete questions such as these: What should the Allies do with Germany after they have won the war? What kind of an international organization should be set up to assure peace? How can we prevent mass unemployment in the United States when the war ends?

## Direction to Reading

These are a few of a large number of questions which must be answered wisely if we are to have smooth sailing during the postwar period. As soon as you have become familiar with these definite issues, you can give direction to your reading. You can pick out articles in the newspapers or magazines which deal with those specific questions. You can go to your library and get a copy of *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*. This guide lists the subjects treated in the magazines of the country alphabetically, and in connection with each of the subjects it lists the various magazine articles which have appeared. If, for example, you are interested in the question of what shall be done with Germany after the war, you may turn to the title, "Germany," and find the list of magazine articles which have been written about that country and problems connected with it.

You should find time occasionally to read a book on a subject in which you have a definite interest. It is a good thing to go to a book store occasionally and look over the new books. If you cannot afford to buy any of them, you can at least find the ones in which you are most interested and can then obtain them from a library. Follow the book reviews in your daily newspaper, or better yet, read book-review magazines such as *The Saturday Review of Literature*, the *New York Herald Tribune's Books*, or the *New York Times Book Review*. This will enable you to select books which will give you a better understanding of the particular problems which you are studying.

Your third step is to talk things over as frequently as possible with other people who, like yourself, are interested in the study of national and international problems. Perhaps the students of your school may wish to organize a discussion club or several discussion clubs. That would be a very good thing. But it is not necessary to go through the formalities of forming a club. Good results can be obtained if a number of students get together now and then for the purpose of informal discussion.

After such a group has been formed, there can be a division of labor. Each member can specialize in the study of some particular problem and can do detailed and systematic reading on it. The group may then get together and the members may exchange informa-



IF PEACE IS TO BE PRESERVED, the youth of America has a great responsibility in studying the issues and problems which will arise

tion—each one being responsible for facts on the subject which is his specialty.

In the course of these discussions, you may gain practice in straight and logical thinking. That is the fourth step in your preparation. Be critical of unsound articles, of statements which are made without proof, of faulty arguments. Examine your own prejudices very carefully. If you have been doing most of your reading on one side of a question, see to it that you find something on the other side. Avoid coming to conclusions without having studied the arguments on both sides of the issue.

In carrying on discussions in your group, it should be your purpose to obtain information as well as to give

As you study issues and problems, read about them, discuss them, think them over, you will form judgments. You will decide upon courses of action which you think our government should adopt. Then you are ready for the fifth step, which is action. Having formed your opinions, you are ready to express them, to give them influence and make them felt by others. You are ready to help build public opinion.

You may do this in a number of ways. One exerts a great deal of influence in the course of thoughtful conversation. If you express your opinions to your friends, and if these opinions are based upon information and upon thinking, you will have influence. Many of the people with whom you talk will be impressed by

that any intelligent citizen should find himself wholly in agreement with any party, or in complete disagreement with any other party.

If you are convinced that a certain form of action should be taken on some problem of national policy, you may exert influence by writing to your representative in Congress or your senator about it. You may also write to your editor, to the party leaders of your state, or to other influential citizens. Letters written to those who are in positions of power have much more influence than you may think.

Finally, you may serve your country in this period of crisis by devoting yourself unflinchingly to the national welfare. Too many people are influenced by narrow class interests. Too often the businessman ignores the interests of farmers or laborers. Workers are frequently more concerned with the success of their unions and their own groups than they are with the national good. Farmers and people of every other group or class are too often concerned only with selfish interests. There is a burning need for citizens who place the common good above benefit to any class or group.

## On Political Front

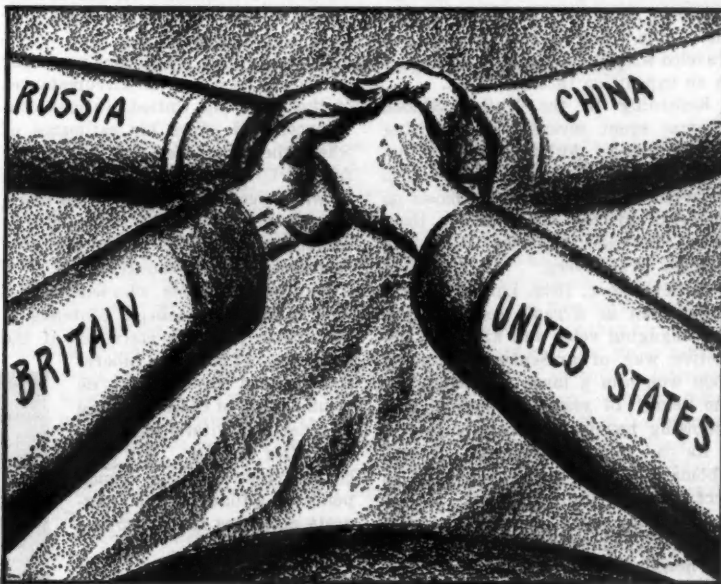
This does not mean that a person should be heedless of the interests of his group. Whether one is a businessman, a labor union member, a farmer, a lawyer, a teacher, or a member of any other vocation or class, he should cooperate with other members of his group in furthering common interests. But if the country is to pass safely through the crises which will arise, there must be an increasing number of citizens who will not put business interests, party interests, class interests, or factional interests of any kind above the interests of the American nation.

A program such as has been outlined should prepare a young citizen to do his part on the political front just as the training received by the men in the Army or the Navy prepares them for their duties on the military front.

But have you time for such a program? It depends upon how highly you value the results which may be achieved by intelligent citizenship during these times of world crisis. If the problems before us are not wisely handled, we will have depression at home. After a few years you will be walking the streets looking for jobs which you will not find. War and devastation will fall upon the world and upon our own country.

To do your part in helping avoid these calamities you need not sacrifice as our men at the battle fronts are sacrificing for their country. You will need merely to give up some of your accustomed pleasures. You will need to be courageous and resolute enough to break away from habits of sloth and inefficiency. You will need to budget your time and to give a fair proportion of it to preparation for the civic tasks which lie ahead.

If you will make the minor sacrifices necessary for the success of this program, you can help to insure that the thousands of Americans who are giving their lives for their country shall not have died in vain. You will be doing your part toward making this period through which we are living a period of progress toward peace, stability, and prosperity. In the face of these possibilities, young Americans should not hesitate about the course to be followed.



Hands across the world

it out. If you wish to grow in wisdom, you must learn to receive as well as to give. You should come away from a discussion with ideas you did not have when you entered it. Your object is not to overcome your associates in debate, but to find out what the truth is about the subjects which are being considered. In some cases your own ideas will be modified by what you hear from others, and in other cases your friends will gain new facts from you. If discussion is to have value, it must be a truly cooperative affair.

your arguments. They will repeat these arguments to their friends, and all this will have an effect in determining what public opinion is on the point at issue.

Frequently, you can help to give effect to your views by joining organizations in your community—organizations which are working for the results in which you believe. Eventually you will probably wish to work with the political party with which you are most nearly in accord. We say "most nearly" because it is inconceivable





Lowell Thomas

### 14 Years on the Air

## Lowell Thomas—Globetrotter, Author

THE cheerful, well-modulated voice of Lowell Thomas has a familiar ring in most American ears. It has been heard on a 15-minute radio news-cast almost every weekday evening since 1930. It has accompanied Twentieth Century-Fox Movietone news shorts since 1935. In almost every American town with a population over 5,000, it has at some time or other resounded from a lecture platform.

The man behind the voice has had an exciting life, and he has made a career of telling people about it. An inveterate globe-trotter, he has visited most of the strange and remote corners of the earth. He has talked to some of the leading personalities of our day, and has witnessed many of its historic events. Coupled with a keen news sense, this rich background has made Lowell Thomas one of America's favorite reporters and story-tellers.

His adventures started early. Growing up in the famous mining camp at Cripple Creek, Colorado, Thomas sold newspapers to the motley horde of wanderers who swarmed the town. As he listened to their stories of faraway places, he was fired with an ambition to see the world.

Soon after he finished college, he set out to realize this ambition. His first trip was an expedition to the sub-Arctic. Taking along cameras and notebooks, he gathered all the information he could about the region. After a second expedition, he was something of an authority on it. Soon he was lecturing, first to small groups and then to larger ones.

By the time the First World War was under way, Lowell Thomas was known as a brilliant speaker and reporter. Upon official request, he went to Europe to gather material for a history of the war. He and his group of cameramen and assistants traveled with the Belgian, French, Italian, Serbian, American, British, and Arabian armies.

In the course of his travels, Thomas went to Jerusalem with General Allenby. While he was there, he became fascinated with the strange story of a white leader who had mobilized the Arabs against the Turks. Then one day, he met this almost mythical character—Colonel T. E. Lawrence.

Sensing the prospect of a big and exclusive story, Thomas dropped everything to join Lawrence in the Arabian desert. When he came back to New York, he had the only existing account

of Lawrence's famous desert revolt. He showed his pictures of it to large audiences both here and in Britain and wrote two successful books, *With Lawrence in Arabia*, and *A Boy's Life of Colonel Lawrence*.

In 1918, Thomas added to his reputation as a daring reporter by bringing back the first eye-witness accounts of the revolution which overthrew the Kaiser's government in Germany. President Wilson considered his work so outstanding that he called upon Thomas to make a special report to the peace delegates.

This job done, Lowell Thomas was off again on another globe-trotting venture. He was away for three years, exploring the wild bush country of Australia, living with primitive jungle tribes in remote parts of the East Indies, and making his way through the unknown reaches of the Himalaya mountains. For part of the time, he traveled with Britain's Prince of Wales in an expedition through India.

Returning to the United States, Thomas spent several years writing and lecturing. Although most of his writing went into travel books, he also authored a number of books based on incidents of the war, among them *Count Luckner*, *the Sea Devil* and *Raiders of the Deep*.

In September, 1930, Lowell Thomas started out as a radio commentator. His engaging voice and his clear, objective way of presenting the news soon won him a large following. In the nearly 14 years since then, this following has grown steadily larger.

As a radio newscaster, Lowell Thomas is much more interested in fact than in interpretation. As he recounts the day's important happenings, he explains the background of the news and often adds human interest sidelights, but seldom injects his own opinions. Skirting the controversial, he leaves prediction and comment to others. So carefully does he avoid taking sides that from listening to his broadcasts, his listeners have little notion of where his own political sympathies lie.

Although Lowell Thomas has done little traveling in the last few years, he has not lost his old interests. His home in the Berkshires at Pawling, New York, is filled with the odd and beautiful things he has gathered on his trips. Stories recalling these trips crop up regularly in his nightly broadcasts.

## Facts About Magazines

### Current History

FOR those who want both fact and opinion on the great international and domestic issues of the day, there is no better periodical than *Current History*. This pocket-sized monthly magazine features some of the best interpretive articles on world affairs to be found anywhere, and also a wealth of exact data on the events from which the issues spring.

In each issue, a section is devoted to full reproduction of what the magazines' editors call "American War Documents." February selections include President Roosevelt's Christmas Eve message, the mutual-aid treaty signed by the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, and the Polish statement on Russian advances into Old Poland.

In addition, *Current History* regularly carries a day-by-day chronology of the month's events. Separate listings are presented for news from the battlefronts, events within the various nations, and happenings affecting the whole international picture. In this feature, no interpretation or slanting is attempted.

*Current History* articles, numbering about 10 in each issue, are distinguished for their high level of scholarship and literary quality and for their fairness. College professors, specializing in the various social sciences, are the most frequent contributors, but other big names among writers and thinkers on current affairs also appear in its table of contents. *Current History* articles are about evenly divided between foreign and international topics and subjects relating to the American scene.

Among the February features, some of the discussions of foreign affairs include "Moscow, Cairo, and Teheran," by Sydney B. Fay; "Will France Rise Again?" by Ernest John Knapton; and "Balkan Federation—or Chaos," by Charlotte E. Braun.

Professor Fay, a Harvard professor of history, reviews the circumstances of the three big United Nations conferences and offers his estimates of where they succeeded and where they fell short. He also uses his knowledge of what went on at these three meetings to evaluate the international conference as a way of promoting good relations between countries.

Professor Knapton, who teaches history at Wheaton college, contends in his article that the activities of the Committee of National Liberation headed by General de Gaulle point to the emergence of a new and vital French nation after the war. His article analyzes the whole French political situation and suggests measures for improving it.

Charlotte Braun, a *Current History* staff writer, suggests in her discussion that a federation of the Balkan countries is the only solution to the historic problems of that area. She points to the many forces now drawing the Balkan states together and mentions ways in which they can be channeled toward the desired end.

Two of the outstanding domestic articles in the latest issue of *Current History* are "Grade Labels or Trade Labels?" by Colston E. Warne and "Should the New Deal

Be Dropped?" by Louise Overacker. Warne, who is president of the Consumers Union of the United States as well as an economics professor at Amherst College, states the case for government grade labeling of food, clothing, and other consumer goods. He holds that under the present system where no provision is made for checking lowered quality on price-controlled items, evasion of the price-control system is easy and prevalent. Grade labels, he asserts, would enable the consumer to see what he is buying and avoid paying standard prices for items of lowered quality.

Professor Overacker argues in her article that President Roosevelt will run for a fourth term in the White House this year. On this assumption, she analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of the Democratic party and suggests possible courses it may take in framing its platform and conducting its campaign.

*Current History* came into existence during the First World War, under the sponsorship of the New York Times. In its early years, it was a more scholarly publication than it is now. In departmentalized form, it offered analyses of the month's events in economic, political, and social affairs.

A few years ago, the Times sold *Current History* to publisher M. E. Tracy, who reissued it in popularized form. He scrapped the departmental system, introduced an editorialized story of the month's news, and added a series of interpretive articles.

In 1939, *Current History* changed hands again. It is now published by Events Publishing Company and edited by D. G. Redmond. Since the present management took over, the story of the month has dwindled to the straight chronological listing now featured and the bulk of the magazine has been devoted to the presentation of interpretive articles. There are a few illustrations—most of them political cartoons reprinted from newspapers and other magazines.

Along with its sections devoted to important documents and chronology, *Current History* offers a group of excellent book reviews each month. A few outstanding new books are reviewed at some length, while a number of others receive a brief, descriptive listing. This department is written by Roy Hillbrook.

### Moscow, Cairo and Teheran

SYDNEY B. FAY

### Migrations and the Great Dominions

ALZADA COMSTOCK

### Should the New Deal Be Dropped?

LOUISE OVERACKER



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